



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 30, 2005

For immediate release

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DNR PROGRAMS CAN HELP PUBLIC FACILITIES CONSERVE ENERGY AS PRICES RISE

DES MOINES – High energy costs are on nearly everyone’s minds lately, and public sector facilities are especially struggling as prices rise. The energy section of the DNR has three programs that can help public facilities make energy management decisions and improvements.

“Our mission is to promote the efficient use of energy resources and a clean, healthy environment,” said Al Goldberg, energy program supervisor. “The DNR will help publicly owned facilities, communities and privately owned fleets in any way we can.”

The State of Iowa Facilities Improvement Corporation (SIFIC) is a non-profit corporation that contracts with the DNR for its staffing needs and facilitates the use of lease-purchase financing for energy management improvement projects in state agencies. SIFIC is a full-service program that provides project identification and analysis, financing arrangements, construction management, and monitoring of energy savings.

The SIFIC program has worked with the Department of Human Services since 1986 to improve the Glenwood Resource Center in Glenwood, Iowa. The total investment in the center’s energy management improvement projects is \$2,249,379 with annual savings of \$402,097. The simple payback on these projects is 5.6 years.

For more information on SIFIC, contact Dan Lane with the DNR at (515) 281-6696 or Dan.Lane@dnr.state.ia.us.

The Iowa Energy Bank Program helps public sector and nonprofit facilities -- such as school districts, local governments, hospitals and private and community colleges -- make energy management improvements. The program provides technical assistance to help the facility managers or engineers make wise energy decisions, and low-interest financing is also available to pay for the improvements.

The Iowa Energy Bank developed a partnership with the Des Moines Community School District to make energy management improvements. With a total investment of \$1,812,745, the school district reaps savings of \$361,851 per year. The payback on the district's investment is within five years.

For more information on the Iowa Energy Bank, contact Danielle Dilks with the DNR at (515) 281-8063 or Danielle.Dilks@dnr.state.ia.us.

Another DNR program, Iowa Clean Cities, works with public and private fleets to advance the use of hybrid electric and alternative fuel vehicles. These vehicles can offer high fuel economy, lower emissions, outstanding performance and energy savings. Technical, financial and planning assistance is available through the Iowa Clean Cities program.

For more information on Iowa Clean Cities, contact Tami Foster with the DNR at (515) 281-6558 or Tami.Foster@dnr.state.ia.us.

For additional information on the DNR's energy programs, visit www.iowadnr.com and click on "Energy" or call (515) 281-4367.

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OCTOBER IS IOWA TIRE CARE MONTH

DES MOINES – In preparation for the winter driving months, Governor Tom Vilsack has declared October "Iowa Tire Care Month" to educate Iowans about proper tire maintenance and disposal.

The DNR has developed a statewide education campaign in conjunction with Gov. Vilsack's proclamation to promote the proper disposal of tires.

"Because Iowans generate an estimated 3 million scrap tires annually, this is an important issue for the state to address," said Jeff Geerts, tire program manager with the DNR. "Our 'Retire Your Tires' campaign encourages Iowans to leave their old tires, usually for a small disposal fee, with the tire dealer when purchasing new tires. Leaving your tires with the dealer ensures they are managed properly."

Iowa law has prohibited the disposal of waste tires in landfills since 1991. Most tire dealers have a waste tire processor or recycler pick up their scrap tires, so that the scrap tires can be processed and recycled into other materials for beneficial uses.

“Most people are unaware of what happens to their tires after they leave them at the dealership,” said Geerts. “Recycled tires may be used for playground, track and athletic field surfaces, new tires, and even tire-derived fuel. There are many possibilities.”

During the month of October, Iowans can visit their local tire dealer to sign up for a prize drawing sponsored by the DNR. Prizes include apparel from The Iowa Nature Store (www.iowanaturestore.com), songbird wildlife packets from the State Forest Nursery, event certificates from the Iowa Speedway, rubber playground mulch from Greenman Technologies and rubber playground mats from Welch Products.

In addition, Iowa drivers can follow these tips to increase the life of their tires and drive more safely this winter:

- **Maintain proper inflation-** Check tires once a month for proper inflation, using an accurate tire gauge. Check daily when traveling. Properly inflated tires also improve your vehicle's fuel economy.
- **Keep wheels properly balanced-** If you feel vibration while driving, check for proper wheel balance. An out-of-balance wheel can literally pull tires out of shape at high speeds.
- **Keep wheels aligned-** If your vehicle pulls to the left or right, check for proper wheel alignment. This may be especially noticeable at higher speeds. Improper alignment causes uneven tread wear patterns that can drastically shorten the life of your tires.
- **Rotate tires regularly-** Tires do not wear evenly on all four wheels. Drive tires usually wear much faster. Consult the owner's manual of your vehicle for the recommended rotation pattern and schedule.
- **Avoid sudden stops-** Even normal stop-and-go traffic can wear tire tread seven times faster than steady driving. Steady pressure on the brake pedal makes a positive difference in tread wear.
- **Avoid excessive speed-** Heat can build up quickly in tires traveling at higher-than-rated speeds. This heat deteriorates rubber and shortens tire life.
- **Don't squeal tires-** Cornering at high speeds and “peeling out” drastically shortens the life of tires. Smooth driving habits not only prolong tire life, but they also improve gas mileage and allow for safer handling.
- **Watch for potholes-** Check alignment frequently if you drive on rough roads or have recently hit a pothole or curb.
- **Replace tires with less than 1/16” tread-** Ninety percent of all tire troubles occur within the last 10 percent of tread wear. By simply placing a penny between the treads of your tires you can determine tread wear. If the depth is 1/16” (the distance between President Lincoln's head and the edge of the penny) or less, then it is time to replace your tires.
- **Purchase the correct tires-** When replacing your tires, be sure to choose the right type and size for your vehicle.

For more information on the DNR's Iowa Scrap Tire program, visit www.iowadnr.com/waste/ or contact Jeff Geerts at (515) 281-8176 or Jeff.Geerts@dnr.state.ia.us.

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FREE TRAINING AVAILABLE STATEWIDE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONDERS

DES MOINES — An upcoming statewide training tour will help Iowa communities prepare for and respond to possible hazardous material transportation incidents.

The free training is offered by TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response), a voluntary national outreach effort. Training will be provided by several railroads, truck companies, chemical producers and government agencies.

“It’s important that first responders are prepared for hazardous materials emergency response,” said Rodney Tucker, an environmental specialist with DNR emergency response and Iowa coordinator for TRANSCAER. “Responders need to be properly trained to respond to these incidents so the environmental impact can be minimized.”

Emergency responders, local emergency planning committees and other members of the community are invited to attend the following training sessions:

- **Cedar Rapids:** Oct. 22, 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Hawkeye Downs Fairgrounds
- **Council Bluffs:** Oct. 17, 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Gold Spike Park
- **Davenport:** Oct. 28-29, 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Fri; 8:30 a.m. Sat.; IC&E Railyard in Eldridge
- **Des Moines:** Oct. 24, 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., 2302 Market St.
- **Mason City:** Oct. 20, 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Cartersville Elevator
- **Ottumwa:** Oct. 26, 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., IC&E Railyard
- **Sioux City:** Oct. 15, 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm, Union Pacific Railyard

Links to registration forms can be found on the Iowa TRANSCAER website at www.transcaer.com. Advanced registration is encouraged but not necessary.

For more information, contact Rodney Tucker at (515) 725-0387 or Rodney.Tucker@dnr.state.ia.us.